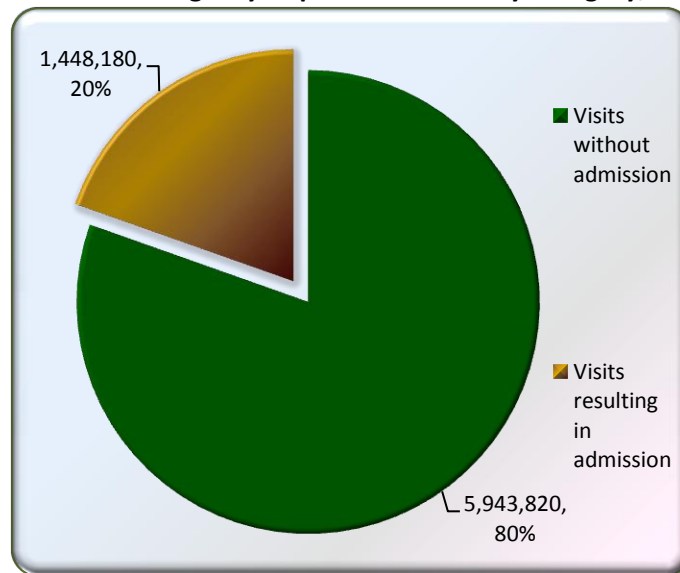


## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT SUMMARY, 2008

The Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis (FCHIPA) within the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) began the collection of Emergency Department (ED) data for the State of Florida in 2005. In 2008, there were 5,943,820 visits to the Emergency Departments that did not result in admission to the hospital. This reflected an increase of 195,445 visits since AHCA started collecting data in 2005 (5,748,375). There was also an increase of patient visits in this year which resulted in an inpatient admission for a total of 1,448,180. The number of visits for 2005 that resulted in admission was 1,353,336. The total ED patient visits to the emergency departments in 2008 was 7,392,000, an increase of 94,844 visits since 2005 (7,101,711). (See Figure 1 for representation of ED visits in 2008).

**Figure 1**  
**Number of Emergency Department Visits by Category, 2008**



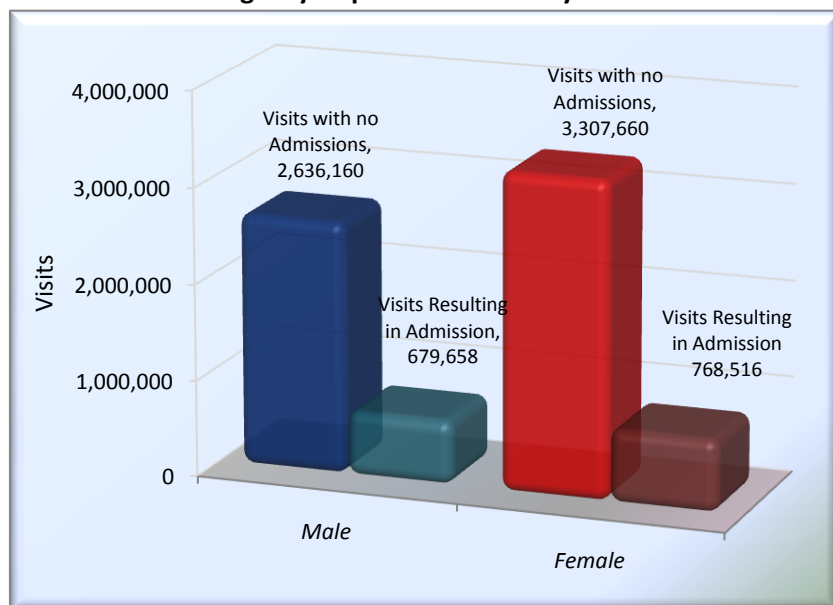
Women had the highest percentage of visits without admission to the hospital, at 55.6% (3,307,660); however, men ED utilization was at an earlier age than women. Overall, the total average age of the ED population was 35 years old. Women also accounted for the highest percentage of visits that resulted in an inpatient admission (53.1%). (Table 1 and Figure 2)

**Table 1**  
**Visits to the Emergency Department by Gender, 2008**

Gender	Visits without Admission			Visits that Resulted in an Inpatient Admission			Total Visits	
	Visits	Percent	Average Age	Visits	Percent	Average Age	Visits	Percent
Male	2,636,160	44.4%	33	679,658	46.9%	57	3,315,818	44.9%
Female	3,307,660	55.6%	36	768,516	53.1%	60	4,076,176	55.1%
Total	5,943,820	100.0%	35	1,448,180	100.0%	59	7,392,000	100.0%

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

**Figure 2**  
**Emergency Department Visits by Gender**



Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

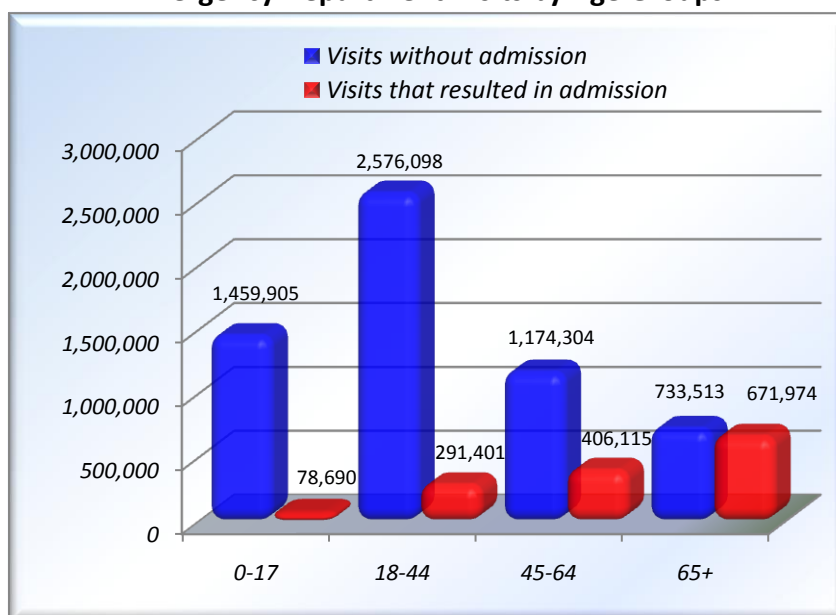
The largest number of Emergency Department visits in 2008 that did not result in admission to the hospital, was among those 18 – 44 years, at 43.3% of the total visits. However, for those visits that resulted in an admission to the hospital, the largest number was among those 65 and older, at 46.4%.  
(Table 2 and Figure 3)

**Table 2**  
**Visits to the Emergency Department by Age Group, 2008**

Age Group	Visits without Admission to the Hospital		Visits that Resulted in an Inpatient Admission		Total Visits
	Visits	Percent (%)	Visits	Percent (%)	
0 - 17	1,459,905	24.6%	78,690	5.4%	1,538,595
18 - 44	2,576,098	43.3%	291,401	20.1%	2,867,499
45 - 64	1,174,304	19.8%	406,115	28.0%	1,580,419
65 & over	733,513	12.3%	671,974	46.4%	1,405,487
Total	5,943,820	100.0%	1,448,180	100.0%	7,392,000

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

**Figure 3**  
**Emergency Department Visits by Age Groups**



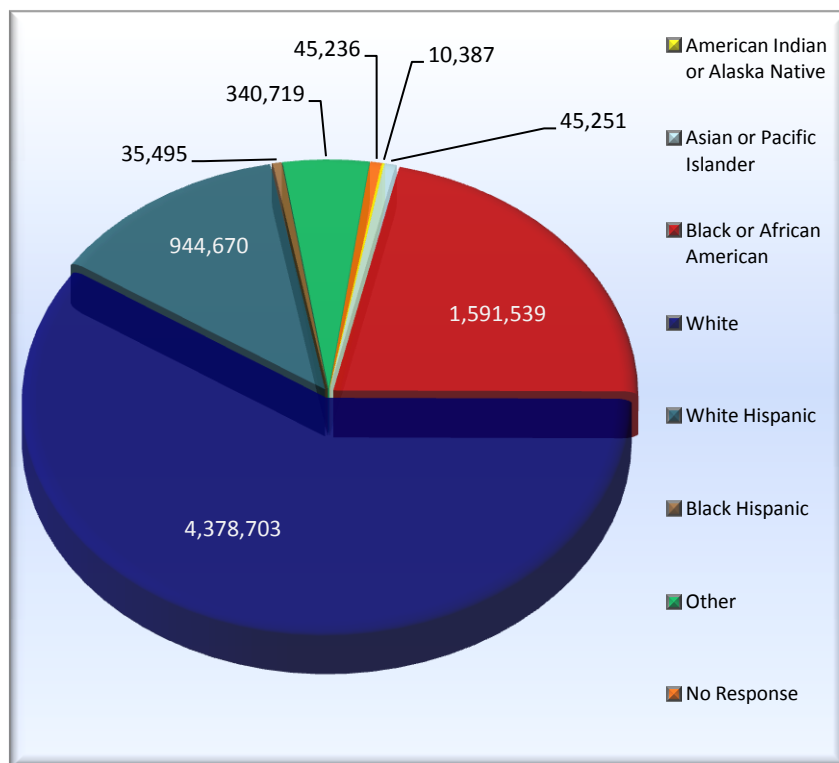
*White* patients accounted for the highest percentage of Emergency Department visits without admission to the hospital, at 57.6% (3,422,274) in 2008. For visits that resulted in an inpatient admission, *White* patients also accounted for the highest number, at 66.0%. (Table 3 and Figure 4)

**Table 3**  
**Emergency Department Visits by Race/Ethnicity, 2006**

Race	Visits without Admission to the Hospital			Visits that Resulted in an Inpatient Admission			Total Visits
	Visits	Percent (%)	Average Age	Visits	Percent (%)	Average Age	
White	3,422,274	57.6%	39	956,429	66.0%	63	4,378,703
Black or African American	1,343,179	22.6%	29	248,360	17.1%	49	1,591,539
White Hispanic	787,501	13.2%	27	157,169	10.9%	52	944,670
Other	277,184	4.7%	29	63,535	4.4%	55	340,719
No Response	38,604	0.6%	32	6,632	0.5%	53	45,236
Asian or Pacific Islander	36,564	0.6%	33	8,687	0.6%	53	45,251
Black Hispanic	30,066	0.5%	28	5,429	0.4%	49	35,495
American Indian or Alaska Native	8,448	0.1%	31	1,939	0.1%	49	10,387
Total	5,943,820	100.0%	35	1,448,180	100.0%	59	7,392,000

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

**Figure 4**  
**Total Emergency Department Visits by Race/Ethnicity, 2008**



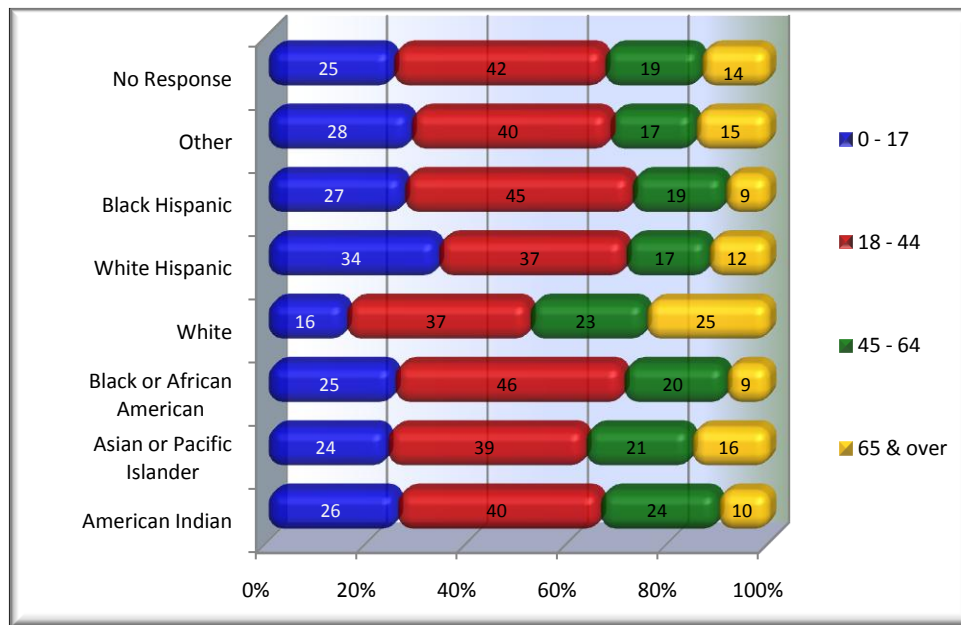
The highest numbers of visits was among *White* patients' ages 18 – 44 (1,598,910) and the age group 65 and over (1,082,011). (Table 3.1 and Figure 4.1)

**Table 3.1**  
**Emergency Department Visits by Age Group and Race/Ethnicity, 2008**

Age Group	Race							Total Visits
	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Black or African America	White	White Hispanic	Black Hispanic	Other	
0 - 17	2,678	10,788	402,271	684,260	320,622	9,641	97,033	1,538,595
18 – 44	4,194	17,835	724,663	1,598,910	352,085	16,079	134,723	2,867,499
45 – 64	2,442	9,553	325,485	1,013,522	156,022	6,581	58,130	1,580,419
65 & over	1,073	7,075	139,120	1,082,011	115,941	3,194	50,833	1,405,487
Total	10,387	45,251	1,591,539	4,378,703	944,670	35,495	340,719	7,392,000

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

**Figure 4.1**  
**Distribution of all Emergency Department Visits by Age Group and Race/Ethnicity, 2008**



Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

The total charges for services provided at the Emergency Departments that did not result in an inpatient hospitalization in 2008, was over 15 billion dollars. *Commercial Insurance* accounted for the largest amount of the total and visits charges. The age group 18 – 44 had the highest charges overall. *Self Pay and Charity* accounted for the second highest number of visits and second largest amount of total charges. (Table 4)

**Table 4**  
**Emergency Department Discharges by Principal Payer, 2008**

Payer	0 - 17		18 – 44		45 - 64		65 & over		TOTAL	
	Visits	Total Charges	Visits	Total Charges	Visits	Total Charges	Visits	Total Charges	Visits	Total Charges
CHAMPUS	27,109	\$37,604,137.00	37,686	\$94,624,251.00	22,123	\$74,786,757.00	1,330	\$3,159,263.00	88,248	\$210,174,408.00
Commercial Insurance	415,355	\$657,550,337.00	799,136	\$2,380,819,524.00	479,594	\$1,768,614,517.00	61,118	\$226,886,726.00	1,755,203	\$5,033,871,104.00
KidCare	24,040	\$35,405,640.00	2,752	\$5,654,955.00	329	\$677,269.00	10	\$35,582.00	27,131	\$41,773,446.00
Medicaid	730,396	\$871,532,914.00	504,323	\$1,186,408,062.00	123,975	\$397,097,285.00	9,475	\$50,698,434.00	1,368,169	\$2,505,736,695.00
Medicare	5,146	\$6,318,140.00	85,231	\$225,646,628.00	161,597	\$534,590,905.00	636,766	\$2,489,706,755.00	888,740	\$3,256,262,428.00
Other State/Local Government	10,210	\$18,201,481.00	28,878	\$87,879,495.00	20,596	\$74,488,455.00	1,833	\$5,939,053.00	61,517	\$186,508,484.00
Self Pay & Charity	244,996	\$301,750,758.00	1,050,617	\$2,400,131,704.00	324,703	\$926,919,323.00	17,946	\$57,683,072.00	1,638,262	\$3,686,484,857.00
VA	130	\$194,792.00	3,237	\$10,361,409.00	7,489	\$28,740,865.00	1,259	\$5,102,432.00	12,115	\$44,399,498.00
Worker's Compensation	797	\$978,370.00	57,680	\$93,404,590.00	31,499	\$60,833,027.00	2,608	\$5,778,994.00	92,584	\$160,994,981.00
Other	1,726	\$3,265,972.00	6,557	\$19,935,001.00	2,399	\$8,878,778.00	1,168	\$4,734,391.00	11,850	\$36,814,142.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,459,905</b>	<b>\$1,932,802,541.00</b>	<b>2,576,098</b>	<b>\$6,504,865,789.00</b>	<b>1,174,304</b>	<b>\$3,875,627,181.00</b>	<b>733,513</b>	<b>\$2,849,724,702.00</b>	<b>5,943,820</b>	<b>\$15,163,020,213.00</b>

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

The total of ED visits that resulted in an inpatient admission was excluded.

Table 4.1 summarizes the charges for medical examination and emergency treatment provided at the emergency department. The charges for visits that resulted in an inpatient hospitalization in 2008 was over 2.2 billion dollars. Medicare patients (*group 65 & over*) accounted for the largest amount of the charges. The second largest amount of charges were patients ages 45 – 64 under commercial insurance. (Table 4.1)

**Table 4.1**  
**Patients admitted to Hospitals through the Emergency Department**  
**by Principal Payer and Emergency Department Charges, 2008**

Payer	0 - 17		18 - 44		45 - 64		65 & Over		TOTAL	
	Visits	Emergency Room Charges	Visits	Emergency Room Charges	Visits	Emergency Room Charges	Visits	Emergency Room Charges	Visits	Emergency Room Charges
CHAMPUS	1,256	\$1,503,373.00	3,423	\$4,857,590.00	6,876	\$9,717,790.00	377	\$515,953.00	11,932	\$16,594,706.00
Commercial Insurance	26,674	\$36,147,302.00	98,716	\$155,419,965.00	152,310	\$238,622,886.00	35,103	\$55,286,481.00	312,803	\$485,476,634.00
KidCare	1,283	\$1,573,772.00	191	\$284,301.00	78	\$114,016.00	5	\$5,426.00	1,557	\$1,977,515.00
Medicaid	42,998	\$58,151,549.00	73,547	\$109,839,229.00	62,149	\$100,080,512.00	9,733	\$17,284,250.00	188,427	\$285,355,540.00
Medicare	286	\$267,464.00	29,113	\$44,240,936.00	96,348	\$152,031,257.00	616,191	\$965,287,183.00	741,938	\$1,161,826,840.00
Other State/Local Government	628	\$943,430.00	7,857	\$14,529,652.00	9,776	\$16,040,919.00	2,179	\$3,518,774.00	20,440	\$35,032,775.00
Other	98	\$132,895.00	1,268	\$2,190,155.00	1,061	\$1,921,110.00	1,105	\$1,822,889.00	3,532	\$6,067,049.00
Self Pay/Under-Insured	5,439	\$7,173,111.00	74,299	\$117,190,067.00	69,916	\$108,929,942.00	5,042	\$7,408,849.00	154,696	\$240,701,969.00
VA	20	\$25,164.00	832	\$1,416,957.00	5,300	\$9,138,186.00	1,792	\$3,012,658.00	7,911	\$13,592,965.00
Worker's Compensation	8	\$9,550.00	2,155	\$3,924,374.00	2,301	\$3,773,708.00	447	\$746,058.00	4,944	\$8,453,690.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78,690</b>	<b>\$105,927,610.00</b>	<b>291,401</b>	<b>\$453,893,226.00</b>	<b>406,115</b>	<b>\$640,370,326.00</b>	<b>671,974</b>	<b>\$1,054,888,521.00</b>	<b>1,448,180</b>	<b>\$2,255,079,683.00</b>

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.  
Values represent only those charges for medical examinations and emergency treatment received at the emergency departments.

Table 5 displays the patient discharge status for 2008. Of the total discharges (7,392,000), 76.2% of the patients were released from the emergency department to home. However, 19.6% of the discharges resulted in an inpatient admission for further care.

**Table 5**  
**Emergency Department Discharges by Patient Discharge Status, 2008**

<i>Discharge Status</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent (%)</i>
Home	5,631,029	76.2%
Patient visits to the emergency department that resulted in inpatient admissions	1,448,180	19.6%
Left against medical advice	186,351	2.5%
Short-term general hospital	48,310	0.7%
Another type of institution	37,340	0.5%
Skilled nursing facility	18,507	0.3%
Expired	12,188	0.2%
Intermediate care facility	7,489	0.1%
Hospice (Home / Medical facility)	1,587	0.0%
Inpatient rehabilitation facility	1,019	0.0%
Total	7,392,000	100.0%

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

Table 6 displays the top 10 reasons for patients utilizing the emergency departments in 2008 that did not result in a hospitalization. Among all the causes, *abdominal pain*, at 3.9% was the number one reason why patients visited the ED. Cough accounted for the second reason at 3.8%, with 224,316 visits.

**Table 6**  
**Top 10 Reasons for Patients Visiting the Emergency Department, 2008**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Total visits</i>	<i>Percent of Total Visits</i>
1	Abdominal pain, unspecified site	233,055	3.9%
2	Cough	224,316	3.8%
3	Fever	212,611	3.6%
4	Chest pain, unspecified	208,753	3.5%
5	Pain in limb	185,751	3.1%
6	Headache	183,023	3.1%
7	Abdominal pain, other specified site	151,035	2.5%
8	Injury in the knee, leg, ankle, and foot	134,299	2.3%
9	Backache, unspecified	119,851	2.0%
10	Rash and other nonspecific skin eruption	119,379	2.0%
	TOTAL	5,943,820	100.0%

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records.

CPT Evaluation and Management Codes are used to classify the patient's acuity level. The grouping of ED visits by acuity level utilizes the five "CPT Evaluation and Management Codes" as assigned to describe the initial condition of the patient. The codes currently run from 99821 (indicating the lowest level of patient management) to 99825 (the highest level of patient management). These codes can be classified into two categories: "Low Acuity" group which corresponds to "non-urgent" visits and "High Acuity" group which corresponds to "urgent" or "emergent" visits. The totals are based on those visits that did not result in an inpatient hospitalization. (Table 7 and Figure 5)

**Table 7**  
**Visits to the Emergency Department by CPT Evaluation and Management Codes, 2008**

<b>CPT Code</b>	<b>The Presenting Problem(s) is/are:</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Percent</b>
99283	Moderate severity	2,023,158	34.0%
99282	Low to moderate severity	1,275,702	21.5%
99284	High severity, and requires urgent evaluation by the physician but do not pose an immediate significant threat to life or physiologic function	1,256,290	21.1%
99281	Self limited or minor severity	671,486	11.3%
99285	High severity and pose an immediate significant threat to life or physiologic function	474,918	8.0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,943,820</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Numbers may not add to total due to unclassified records and/or codes.

Figure 3 represents the classification of the two categories of "CPT Evaluation and Management Codes" as follows:

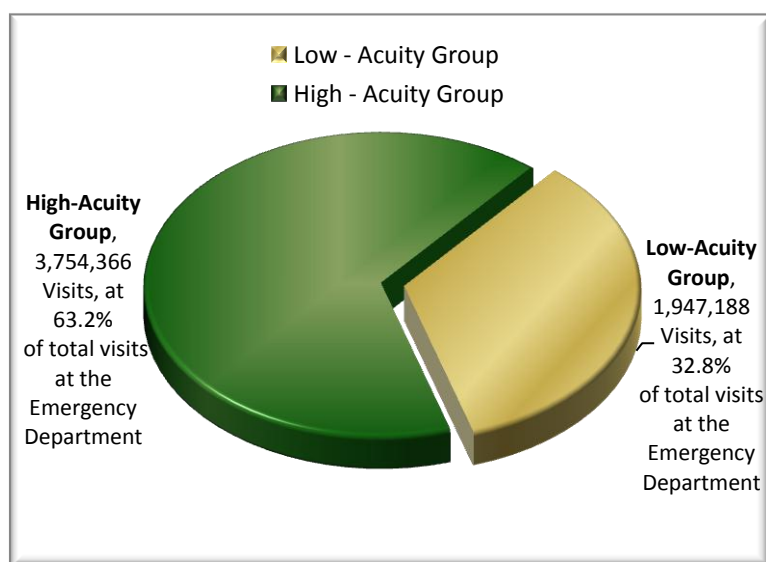
**Low-Acuity Group:**

99281	Self limited or minor severity
99282	Low to moderate severity

**High-Acuity Group:**

99283	Moderate severity
99284	High severity, but do not pose an immediate significant threat to life
99285	High severity and pose an immediate threat to life

**Figure 5**  
**CPT Evaluation and Management Codes by Group, 2008**



Note: Percent may not add to 100% due to unclassified records and/or acuity levels.

Table 8 and Table 8.1 display the ten top diagnoses (Information related to services performed during the patient's visit) for those visits without hospitalization and for those with hospitalization, respectively.

For visits without hospitalization, the top diagnosis was "Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified site" with 136,655 total visits. However, "Chest pain, other (Discomfort, pressure, tightness in chest)" accounted for the highest of charges in the Emergency Department (\$742,721,003.00). "Urinary tract infection, site not specified" had the second highest number of visits (111,493); conversely, the second highest charge was for "Chest pain, unspecified" (\$524,673,996.00).

**Table 8**  
**The Top 10 Principal Diagnosis Related to Services Performed During the Patient's Visit, 2008**

No	Diagnosis	Visits	Percentage of Total Visits	Average Charges	Total Charges
1	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites	136,655	2.3%	\$914.34	\$124,949,617.00
2	Urinary tract infection, site not specified	111,493	1.9%	\$2,991.11	\$333,487,625.00
3	Abdominal pain, unspecified site	108,543	1.8%	\$4,840.21	\$525,370,693.00
4	Unspecified otitis media (Inflammation of the middle ear)	107,988	1.8%	\$676.87	\$73,094,342.00
5	Headache	106,487	1.8%	\$3,264.74	\$347,652,374.00
6	Acute Pharyngitis	95,575	1.6%	\$922.55	\$88,172,415.00
7	Chest pain, unspecified	93,427	1.6%	\$5,615.87	\$524,673,996.00
8	Chest pain, other (Discomfort, pressure, tightness in chest)	82,604	1.4%	\$8,991.34	\$742,721,003.00
9	Sprains and strains of neck	75,906	1.3%	\$2,905.12	\$220,516,284.00
10	Fever	75,691	1.3%	\$1,553.38	\$117,576,914.00

The highest charges and number of visits that occurred among patients admitted in 2008 was for “*Pneumonia, organism unspecified*” with 44,115 total visits and with a charge of more than \$1.3 billion. The second highest number of visits and charges was for “chest pain, other” with 38,917 visits and a total cost of more than 820 million.

**Table 8.1**  
**The Top 10 Principal Diagnosis for Emergency Department Visits**  
**that Resulted in an Inpatient Admission, 2008**

<b>No</b>	<b>Diagnosis</b>	<b>Visits</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Visits</b>	<b>Average Charges</b>	<b>Emergency Room Charges</b>
1	Pneumonia, organism unspecified	44,115	3.0%	\$31,375.76	\$1,384,141,860.00
2	Chest pain, other (Discomfort, pressure, tightness)	38,917	2.7%	\$21,076.96	\$820,252,130.00
3	Congestive heart failure, unspecified	37,410	2.6%	\$36,487.29	\$1,364,989,466.00
4	Obstructive chronic bronchitis, with (acute) exacerbation	30,786	2.1%	\$27,846.25	\$857,274,805.00
5	Urinary tract infection, site not specified	27,020	1.9%	\$24,013.06	\$648,833,010.00
6	Subendocardial infarction, initial episode of care	24,628	1.7%	\$64,203.73	\$1,581,209,452.00
7	Unspecified septicemia	24,500	1.7%	\$69,242.54	\$1,696,442,309.00
8	Coronary atherosclerosis of native coronary artery	24,102	1.7%	\$58,087.20	\$1,400,017,694.00
9	Atrial fibrillation	23,686	1.6%	\$27,469.08	\$650,632,656.00
10	Acute renal failure, unspecified	23,198	1.6%	\$37,847.18	\$877,978,859.00